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BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT STATISTICS

NOVEMBER, 1946.

1. GENERAL

This summary, issued by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician, (Mr. J. Barry), covers the operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, during the month of November, 1946 and the five months ended November, 1946.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstances, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The number of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days' duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of a "means test" excludes another group from benefit. The inclusion of claims rejected - see 2(i) - completes the coverage of all persons applying for benefit, irrespective of whether their claims are approved or rejected.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependants on such beneficiaries are not included.

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services. The details given in Sections 4, 6 and 7 refer to admittances and exits notified during the period shown and not to admittances and exits which actually occurred during that period.

Due to delay in the receipt of information in respect of some beneficiaries, the figures are preliminary and subject to revision. This applies particularly to discontinuances and results in persons on benefit at the end of the month being overstated.

2. SUMMARY

(i) Claims Rejected: The number of applicants for benefit whose claims were rejected during the five months ended November, 1946, is shown in the table below. No further dissection of these rejected claims has been made but it is hoped to extract further information in the near future.

CLAIMS REJECTED - FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER, 1946 : STATES

State	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	T o t a l Number	Percent. of All Claims
New South Wales					
(a) ..	1,626	755	32	2,413	16.7
Victoria ..	1,333	985	13	2,331	16.6
Queensland ..	8,562	542	20	9,124	32.4
South Australia					
(b) ..	2,000	660	16	2,676	44.5
Western Australia	2,271	407	18	2,696	20.2
Tasmania ..	55	149	2	206	14.2
TOTAL:	15,847	3,498	101	19,446	25.0

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) Claims Admitted, Exits, Persons on Benefit: The following table shows for the year ended June, 1946 and for the months from July to November, 1946, the number of claims admitted and discontinued and persons remaining on benefit:-

CLAIMS ADMITTED, DISCONTINUANCES AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946 AND MONTHS OF JULY TO NOVEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Period	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		Persons
	Males	Fe- males	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Fe- males	
CLAIMS ADMITTED									
1946 - Year ended June ..	65,455	12,289	33,178	6,724	242	194	98,875	19,207	118,082
July (a)	9,023	2,488	3,310	661	52	17	12,385	3,166	15,551
August (a)	3,861	164	4,175	912	45	25	8,081	1,101	9,182
September (a)	2,754	109	3,345	750	19	13	6,118	872	6,990
October (a)	2,886	85	3,272	807	16	4	6,174	896	7,070
November (a)	11,625	792	2,863	666	20	1	14,508	1,459	15,967
DISCONTINUANCES									
1946 - Year ended June ..	58,879	11,992	27,550	5,432	186	54	86,615	17,478	104,093
July (a)	9,047	2,481	2,832	534	36	8	11,915	3,023	14,938
August (a)	4,033	192	3,761	771	36	14	7,830	977	8,807
September (a)	2,899	143	3,201	646	14	7	6,114	796	6,910
October (a)	2,800	90	3,091	663	20	16	5,911	769	6,680
November (a)	4,456	414	2,609	533	17	4	7,082	951	8,033
PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF EACH MONTH									
1946 -									
June ..	6,576	297	5,628	1,292	56	140	12,260	1,729	13,989
July (a)	6,552	304	6,106	1,419	72	149	12,730	1,872	14,602
August (a)	6,380	276	6,520	1,560	81	160	12,981	1,996	14,977
September (a)	6,235	242	6,664	1,664	86	166	12,985	2,072	15,057
October (a)	6,321	237	6,845	1,808	82	154	13,248	2,199	15,447
November (a)	13,490	615	7,099	1,941	85	151	20,674	2,707	23,381

(a) Subject to revision.

NOTE: For monthly figures from July, 1945 to June, 1946, see October 1946 Bulletin.

3. BENEFITS PAID

The benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during November, 1946, and the five months ended November, 1946, are shown in the following table:-

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID DURING NOVEMBER, 1946 AND THE FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER, 1946 : STATES

State	Benefits paid during November, 1946				Benefits paid during five months ended November, 1946			
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
N.S.W. (a)	14,182	23,274	341	37,797	61,729	106,940	1,452	170,121
VICTORIA	5,008	18,194	284	23,486	25,513	74,768	1,182	101,463
QLD.	21,528	8,973	331	30,832	128,071	41,916	1,525	171,512
S.A. (b)	900	5,573	56	6,529	9,050	31,724	615	41,389
W.A.	15,102	4,623	181	19,906	57,709	24,591	896	83,196
TASMANIA	771	2,566	102	3,439	4,108	14,057	821	18,986
TOTAL:	57,491	63,203	1,295	121,989	286,180	293,996	6,491	586,667

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

#### 4. BENEFITS DISCONTINUED

(i) Duration: The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the cases of benefit whose discontinuance was notified during the five months ended November, 1946, is shown in the following table:-

DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING THE  
FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Duration of Benefit Weeks	Unemployment			Sickness			TOTAL (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Less than 1	6,118	1,074	7,192	1,510	223	1,733	7,641	1,297	8,938
1 and under 2	7,094	1,805	8,899	2,576	447	3,023	9,688	2,256	11,944
2 " " 3	2,282	95	2,377	2,282	385	2,667	4,591	485	5,076
3 " " 4	1,736	73	1,809	1,939	399	2,338	3,698	473	4,171
4 " " 5	1,254	57	1,311	1,468	320	1,788	2,761	380	3,141
5 " " 9	3,217	138	3,355	3,324	678	4,002	6,578	827	7,405
9 " " 13	1,998	101	2,099	1,491	355	1,846	3,513	466	3,979
13 " " 26	2,522	166	2,688	1,700	458	2,158	4,238	636	4,874
26 and over	722	29	751	907	220	1,127	1,636	265	1,901
TOTAL:	26,943	3,538	30,481	17,197	3,485	20,682	44,344	7,085	51,429

(a) Includes Special Benefits (204 males, 62 females, 266 persons).

Of the 51,429 benefits whose discontinuance was notified during the five months ended November, 1946, 18,159 (35 per cent.) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 21,300 (41 per cent.) for four weeks and over 25,471 (50 per cent.) for three weeks and over, 30,547 (59 per cent.) for two weeks and over, 42,491 (83 per cent.) for one week and over, whilst 8,938 (17 per cent.) received benefit for less than one week.

Average duration of unemployment benefits discontinued was shorter than that of sickness. Twenty-four per cent. of unemployment and eight per cent. of sickness cases were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, whilst for durations of less than three weeks the percentages were 61 and 36 respectively.

(ii) Reasons for Cessation: Of the 30,481 cases of unemployment benefit whose termination was notified during the five months ended November, 1946, 28,833 (94.6 per cent.) secured employment or failed to report (which in most cases means that the beneficiary has resumed employment without advising the Department of Social Services), 905 (3.0 per cent.) transferred to Sickness Benefit or to another district and 196 (0.6 per cent.) transferred to Rehabilitation Allowance.

Of the 20,682 cases of sickness benefit whose termination was notified, 17,886 (86.5 per cent.) recovered from their illness and presumably resumed employment, 937 (4.5 per cent.) were classified as permanently incapacitated which, in practically every case, means that they were transferred to Invalid pension, 790 (3.8 per cent.) transferred to Unemployment Benefit or to another district and 370 (1.8 per cent.) died.

#### 5. PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF NOVEMBER, 1946

##### TOTAL PERSONS.

(i) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment: The proportion of persons on benefit at 30th November, 1946, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 97 per 10,000, comprising 59 unemployment, 37 sickness and 1 special cases per 10,000. The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30th NOVEMBER, 1946  
PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA

Sex	Proportion	No. on benefit per 10,000 in employment			
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
Males ..	per 10,000 males	79	41	-	120
Females ..	per 10,000 females	9	29	2	40
Persons ..	per 10,000 persons	59	37	1	97

(ii) State Totals:

The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 30th November, 1946:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30th NOVEMBER, 1946 : STATES

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		T o t a l		Persons
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
N.S.W. (a)	1,809	84	2,765	688	19	38	4,593	810	5,403
VIC.	4,701	147	1,927	604	24	33	6,652	784	7,436
QLD.	3,570	94	919	192	17	30	4,506	316	4,822
S.A. (b)	362	3	630	160	5	9	997	172	1,169
W.A.	2,907	286	542	200	15	13	3,464	499	3,963
TAS.	141	1	316	97	5	28	462	126	588
TOTAL:	13,490	615	7,099	1,941	85	151	20,674	2,707	23,381

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) Ages: Distribution of persons on benefit at 30th November, 1946, according to age groups is shown in the following table:-

GROUPED AGE : PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30th NOVEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Grouped Age (as at 31st Dec., 1946)	Unemployment			Sickness			T o t a l (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
16 - 19 years	463	155	618	442	400	842	905	566	1,471
20 - 24 "	1,602	211	1,813	629	527	1,156	2,231	749	2,980
25 - 29 "	1,631	65	1,696	555	226	781	2,186	298	2,484
30 - 34 "	1,561	52	1,613	561	148	709	2,128	216	2,344
35 - 39 "	1,337	33	1,370	675	155	830	2,014	207	2,221
40 - 44 "	1,428	29	1,457	675	137	812	2,103	187	2,290
45 - 49 "	1,348	33	1,381	788	157	945	2,137	216	2,353
50 - 54 "	1,314	19	1,333	878	107	985	2,193	151	2,344
55 - 59 "	1,408	18	1,426	1,036	83	1,119	2,450	114	2,564
60 - 64 "	1,398	-	1,398	860	1	861	2,327	3	2,330
TOTAL:	13,490	615	14,105	7,099	1,941	9,040	20,674	2,707	23,381

(a) Includes Special Benefits (85 males, 151 females, 236 persons.)

6. UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF NOVEMBER, 1946.

(i) Cause of Unemployment: The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment as stated by persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the five months ended November, 1946 and by those who were on benefit at 30th November, 1946.

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employer, the broad distinction being that a discharge is final and there is no likelihood of the person being re-engaged, at least in the near future. A lay-off is a separation of a temporary nature with the idea that the job will be available again for the employee as soon as circumstances permit.

Quits are separations which take place on the initiative of the employee.

CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING  
FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER, 1946 - AUSTRALIA.

Cause of Unemployment	Admitted during five months ended Nov. 1946			On benefit at 30th November, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Discharged for disciplinary reasons	363	9	372	95	1	96
Discharged for other reasons -						
Inefficiency, including medical unfitness ..	953	41	994	611	23	634
Retrenchment, including closing of establishment ..	3,033	119	3,152	1,172	38	1,210
Replaced by reinstated ex-service personnel etc., relieving worker only	1,210	106	1,316	581	33	614
Other discharges, including inadequately defined ..	201	7	208	67	-	67
Laid-off owing to -						
Power rationing ..	7,640	2,895	10,535	933	246	1,179
Shortage of materials ..	1,192	27	1,219	355	4	359
Strikes, lock-outs within the same establishment ..	7,155	198	7,353	5,068	141	5,209
Seasonal work ..	1,530	20	1,550	860	9	869
Casual work ..	2,985	26	3,011	1,032	6	1,038
Other reasons, including inadequately defined ..	442	10	452	139	6	145
Inadequately defined ..	3	-	3	413	10	423
Quitted -						
Medical unfitness, work too heavy	1,864	117	1,981	832	44	876
Other quits, including inadequately defined ..	1,332	85	1,417	496	28	524
Not previously employed -						
Employers, workers on own account	458	6	464	211	3	214
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work ..	1,606	30	1,636	617	13	630
Other ..	15	19	34	8	10	18
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>31,982</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>35,697</b>	<b>13,490</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>14,105</b>

(ii) Industrial Groups: In the following statement is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups, of persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the five months ended November, 1946, and of these on benefit at 30th November, 1946:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING FIVE MONTHS ENDED  
NOVEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	Claims admitted during five months ended November 1946			On Benefit at 30th November, 1946.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying	2,049	7	2,056	945	2	947
Other Primary Production ..	366	-	366	147	-	147
Coal Mining ..	863	-	863	45	-	45
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	455	-	455	115	-	115
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working, including shipbuilding ..	7,444	221	7,665	5,032	109	5,141
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	2,091	18	2,109	447	11	458
Textiles and articles of dress ..	924	2,022	2,946	176	188	364
Food, drink and tobacco ..	2,609	298	2,907	1,091	47	1,138
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	1,267	40	1,307	281	6	287
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	2,108	234	2,342	679	35	714
Building and Construction ..	2,352	1	2,353	807	-	807
Transport and Communication ..	3,111	60	3,171	1,042	8	1,050
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	2,048	182	2,230	806	41	847
Finance and property ..	114	8	122	57	3	60
Public Administration and Professional ..	1,520	80	1,600	736	35	771
Personal and Domestic Service ..	1,252	500	1,752	516	107	623
Other ..	1,409	44	1,453	568	23	591
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>31,982</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>35,697</b>	<b>13,490</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>14,105</b>

The States with the largest numbers of males in receipt of unemployment benefit at 30th November, 1946, in the principal industrial groups were:-

Founding, Engineering, etc: (Commonwealth 5,032 males) - Victoria 3,935; W.A. 389; N.S.W. 325; Queensland 157.

Food, Drink etc. Factories: (Commonwealth 1,091 males) - Queensland 716; N.S.W. 141; W.A. 138.

Transport and Communication: (Commonwealth 1,042 males) - W.A. 518; Queensland 323; N.S.W. 102.

Agriculture, Pastoral, etc: (Commonwealth 945 males) - Queensland 505; N.S.W. 271.

Building and Construction: (Commonwealth 807 males) - Queensland 364; N.S.W. 177; W.A. 154.

Wholesale and Retail Trade: (Commonwealth 806 males) - Queensland 290; W.A. 286; N.S.W. 147.

Public Administration, etc: (Commonwealth 736 males) - Queensland 412; W.A. 147; N.S.W. 119.

(a) Defence - Civilian employees (mainly of Allied Government forces) (Commonwealth 392 males) - Queensland 294.

(iii) Metropolitan and Other: Unemployment benefits whose admission was notified during the five months ended November, 1946, and those current at 30th November, 1946, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claims admitted during five months ended November 1946				On Benefit at 30th November, 1946.			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b) ..	1,244	30	3,066	182	527	5	1,282	79
VICTORIA ..	4,553	157	1,238	19	4,215	136	486	11
QUEENSLAND ..	7,009	1,876	6,389	755	1,636	14	1,934	80
S.A. (c) ..	424	3	256	3	259	3	103	-
W.A. ..	5,878	633	1,687	56	2,618	276	289	10
TASMANIA ..	172	-	66	1	123	-	18	1
TOTAL:	19,280	2,699	12,702	1,016	9,378	434	4,112	181

(a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital City and Sub-urban district offices of the Departments of Social Services or Labour and National Service (Employment Service). In N.S.W., Liverpool is included in "Other." In S.A., Port Adelaide and in W.A., Fremantle and Midland Junction are included in Metropolitan.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes Northern Territory.

7. SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER, 1946 AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF NOVEMBER, 1946.

(i) Metropolitan and Other: Sickness benefits whose admission was notified during the five months ended November, 1946 and those current at 30th November, 1946, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF SICKNESS BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES

State	Claims admitted during five months ended November 1946				On benefit at 30th November 1946			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b) ..	3,047	879	3,069	440	1,400	444	1,365	244
VICTORIA ..	2,806	887	1,634	332	1,253	450	674	154
QUEENSLAND ..	1,183	265	1,546	204	437	122	482	70
S.A. (c) ..	1,433	288	764	114	437	112	193	48
W.A. ..	1,165	347	692	136	378	159	164	41
TASMANIA ..	281	69	549	88	162	51	154	46
TOTAL:	9,915	2,735	8,254	1,314	4,067	1,338	3,032	603

(a) See footnote to Table 6 (iii). (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) Nature of Sickness: The following table shows the principal causes of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, of persons whose admission was notified during the five months ended November, 1946 and of those on benefit at 30th November, 1946:-

NATURE OF SICKNESS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING FIVE MONTHS  
ENDED NOVEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Nature of Sickness	Claims admitted during five months ended November 1946			On Benefit at 30th November, 1946.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	1,318	278	1,596	424	142	566
Cancer ..	134	17	151	84	10	94
Other Tumours ..	143	86	229	59	48	107
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases ..	1,173	256	1,429	598	181	779
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming Organs ..	100	71	171	53	37	95
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	1,581	496	2,077	694	269	963
Circulatory System ..	1,537	181	1,718	889	100	989
Respiratory System ..	2,312	399	2,711	777	178	955
Digestive System ..	3,792	833	4,625	1,268	296	1,564
Genito-Urinary System ..	707	287	994	302	133	435
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	-	343	343	-	186	186
Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	1,062	200	1,262	324	70	394
Bones and Organs of Movement ..	495	96	591	205	45	250
Other Diseases (including Ill-defined conditions) ..	242	108	350	81	58	139
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures ..	1,756	149	1,905	846	84	930
Other Injuries, etc. ..	1,631	143	1,774	424	55	479
Operations (original disability not stated) ..	117	83	200	41	38	79
Other (including not stated) ..	69	23	92	25	11	36
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>18,169</b>	<b>4,049</b>	<b>22,218</b>	<b>7,099</b>	<b>1,941</b>	<b>9,040</b>

(iii) Industrial Groups: The distribution according to main industrial groups, of persons on sickness benefit at 30th November, 1946, is shown in the following table:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT AT 30th NOVEMBER 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	581	10	591
Other Primary Production ..	177	-	177
Coal Mining ..	300	-	300
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	105	-	105
Factories and Industrial -			
Founding, engineering, metalworking, including shipbuilding ..	1,181	86	1,267
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	320	9	329
Textiles and articles of Dress ..	262	378	640
Food, drink and tobacco ..	475	125	600
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	235	9	244
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	619	127	746
Building and Construction ..	808	-	808
Transport and Communication ..	691	64	755
Commerce and Finance -			
Wholesale and retail trade ..	641	335	976
Finance and property ..	45	29	74
Public Administration and Professional	287	306	593
Personal and Domestic Service ..	335	456	791
Other ..	37	7	44
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>7,099</b>	<b>1,941</b>	<b>9,040</b>

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